



PUEBLO OF SANTA CLARA

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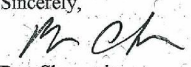
August 18, 2009

Mr. Dennis Rankin
Environmental Protection Specialists
RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250 – 1571

Mr. Rankin,

This letter is in regards to the letter I received on the proposed San Luis Valley Calumet Comanche Transmission Project in Southern Colorado. The Santa Clara Pueblo has concerns on what kinds of work will actually occur and exactly what ground disturbing activities will occur? Other than Traditional Cultural Properties how will the Flora and Fauna be impacted in these proposed areas of the project and what measures has the Rural Utilities Service taken to mitigate any impacts to the cultural and natural resources in the Area of Potential Effects. This is in an area that has strong ties to the pueblo people of NM and to the Santa Clara Pueblo. The Santa Clara Pueblo would ask also that during the duration of the project if any cultural sites, remains, or artifacts are discovered that all work cease immediately and all affiliated tribes be notified. We would like in the future to have better government to government communication and consultation regarding various projects occurring on our ancestral homeland.

Sincerely,


Ben Chavarria
Land and Cultural Resources
Rights Protection Office
Santa Clara Pueblo

Office of
Cultural Preservation, Land Claims, & Rights Protection

T-003-001

T-003-002

T-003-003

T-003-004

T-003-001: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

T-003-002: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

T-003-003: NEPA Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations.

Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/enviro.htm>. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

T-003-004: NEPA Process (In Review)

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<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.